

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18, 19 and 21-28 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 16 and 26 have been amended, claims 3, 8, 9, 19, 24, 25 and 28 have been canceled, and new claims 30-39 have been added. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-16, 18, 21-23, 26, 27 and 30-39 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Initially, the applicant would like to express his appreciation for the indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 3, 9, 19, 25 and 28 have only been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Please note that the claims have been amended herein to incorporate into the independent claims the limitations of these allowable dependent claims.

The amendments to the claims have been made in an effort to lend greater clarity to the claimed subject matter and to expedite prosecution by limiting the claims to the subject matter that was indicated in the outstanding Office Action to be allowable. The amendments should not be taken to indicate the applicant's agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejections of record. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11-16, 18, 21-23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bredoux *et al.* The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection to the extent that it might be applied to the claims now presented for examination. As noted above, the claims have been amended herein such that the independent claims have the limitations of previous dependent claims that were not rejected. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been rendered moot.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-16, 18, 21-24 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bredoux *et al.* in view of Inoue *et al.* The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection to the extent that it might be applied to the claims now presented for examination. As noted above, the claims have been amended herein such that the independent claims have the limitations of previous dependent claims that were not rejected. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been rendered moot.

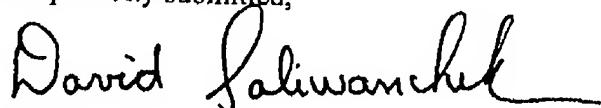
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In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendment above, the applicant believes that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicant also invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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